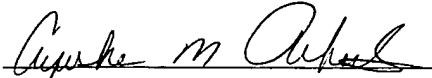


CERTIFICATE OF HAND DELIVERY

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being hand filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria, Virginia on February 27, 2004.


Ayisha M. Roberts

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Hiroshi NISHIKAWA et al.

Serial No.: New Application

Filing Date: February 27, 2004

For: IMAGE READING APPARATUS

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the document be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed together with the application accordingly, no fee is due.

A copy of the documents listed on the PTO/SB/08 is attached.

While the information and document disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed documents.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing **325772034600**.

Dated: February 27, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Barry E. Bretschneider
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Form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Docket Number 325772034600	Application Number Not Yet Assigned
	Applicant Hiroshi NISHIKAWA	
	Filing Date February 27, 2004	Group Art Unit Not Yet Assigned
	Mailing Date February 27, 2004	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Date	Document No.	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Date	Document No.	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation YES NO
	1.	11-28-1997	9-307695	Japan			Abstract
	2.	8-17-2001	2001-223832	Japan			Abstract
	3.	5-28-1999	11-146140	Japan			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS

(including author, title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Title

EXAMINER:	DATE CONSIDERED:
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not the citation conforms with MPEP 609. Draw a line through the citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.